

REMARKS

This response is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed on October 17, 2007. Claims 1-34 were pending at the time the Office Action was issued. Claims 1-34 remain pending.

I. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicant respectfully expresses appreciation to Examiner Barqadle for the telephonic interview conducted November 15, 2007, discussing the disposition of this case with Applicant's representative. During the interview, Applicant and the Examiner discussed the claim rejections in view of paragraphs 12-13 and 23-24 of U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0131078 to Scheer et al (hereinafter "Scheer"), as well as the possibility that a Rule 1.131 Declaration may be filed by the Applicant to remove Scheer as prior art.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103

Claims 1-5, 8-31 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0131078 to Scheer et al. Claims 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheer in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0233431 to Reddy et al. (hereinafter "Reddy"). Submitted herewith is a declaration of the inventors under 37 CFR § 1.131 swearing behind Scheer. Scheer should therefore be removed as prior art.

Although Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-34 are neither anticipated nor rendered unpatentable by Scheer, Applicant respectfully reserves further comment on the merits of the Examiner's rejections in view of the

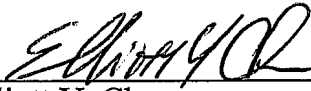
enclosed declaration under 37 CFR § 1.131. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-34.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment, as well as consideration and prompt allowance of the claims. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 
Elliott Y. Chen
Reg. No. 58,293
Lee & Hayes, PLLC
421 W. Riverside Ave, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201
Phone: (206) 315-4001 x104
or (206) 315-7914
Fax: (206) 315-4004